

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AID-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-02 ADP-00 EUR-02 EA-02 IO-02 L-02 EB-02

IGA-02 INR-02 PM-02 INRE-00 (ADP) W

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P R 041600 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1033

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSL

USMISSION NATO

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1563

LIMDIS

AIDAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: EC AID TO INDOCHINA

REF: STATE 060350; THE HAGUE 1355

1. BEFORE RESPONDING TO ANY GVN INVITATION TO ATTEND INITIAL
MEETING TO ESTABLISH AID CONSORTIUM OR COORDINATING MECHANISM FOR
AID TO SVN, BELIEVE GON WOULD COORDINATE WITH EC PARTNERS TO TRY
TO DETERMINE COMMON POSITION AND THEN REPLY ACCORDINGLY. GON
RESPONSE WOULD BE FAVORABLE IF EC COUNCIL AND BENELUX PARTNER'S
CONSENSUS IS THAT (A) GVN SUITABLE AID RECIPIENT AND (B) IGGI

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TYPE CONSORTIUM SUITABLE AID VEHICLE. FROM VANTAGE POINT OF HAGUE WE BELIEVE THERE COULD BE DIFFICULTIES ON BOTH COUNTS. CURRENT CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY BE PREPARED TO GIVE TOKEN AID TO GVN BUT DOUBTLESS HOPES FOR MUCH GREATER POLITICAL PAYOUT BY ASSIGNING LION'S SHARE TO HANOI. GVN ASSUMES USG SHOULD AND WILL CARRY MAIN BURDEN IN SVN. PRESENT GVN WOULD PROBABLY ALSO FEEL THAT LEFT WING FLAK AGAINST ANY AID AT ALL TO GVN WOULD BE MINIMIZED IF THIS WERE CHANNELLED THROUGH MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS MEKONG COMMITTEE AND ADB, RATHER THAN BE LINE-ITEMED IN BUDGET AS BILATERAL AID AS WOULD BE CASE IN CONSORTIUM APPROACH.

2. GIVEN CURRENT POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES IN NETHERLANDS (WITH CONTINUING POSSIBILITY OF LEFT WING GOVT) AS WELL AS DUTCH TENDENCY TO EQUATE AID TO INDOCHINA WITH AID TO DRV, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY DUTCH WOULD EXERCISE ANY LEADERSHIP IN GVN CONSORTIUM (IF ONE ESTABLISHED AND GVN PARTICIPATED) OR TO COMMIT ITSELF TO SPECIFIC LEVEL OF AID UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS WITH DRV FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD. IN VIET-NAM SECTION OF ITS GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, LEFT WING COALITION WHICH COULD TAKE OFFICE IN NEAR FUTURE SAYS ONLY "THE NETHERLANDS RECOGNIZES NORTH VIET-NAM AND OFFERS THIS LAND AS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM." PROGRAM SAYS NOTHING ABOUT SVN. WHILE NEW LEFT WING GOVT MIGHT FEEL CONSTRAINED TO GO ALONG WITH DECISION OF EC PARTNERS (IF COMMON POSITION REACHED), PARTICIPATION IN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR SVN, NO MATTER WHAT THE FORUM, WOULD BE DE MINIMIS.

MIDDENDORF

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